

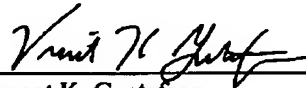
In view of the amount of time that has passed since the filing of the above-identified patent application, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is requested to furnish the undersigned attorney with an identification of the current status of this application.

Although a return postcard and a filing receipt have been received bearing the filing date and application number, no Office Action has been received by the undersigned attorney.

The Application Branch therefore is requested to determine the present status of the application and identify a time by which the applicant may expect to receive an initial action.

Please address any questions concerning the foregoing to the undersigned attorney at (919) 419-9350.

Respectfully submitted,



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